

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended. Claims 1-5 and 7-27 are in the application. Entry of this amendment, and reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 submitted with the previous response is not required and is hereby withdrawn.

Independent claims 1, 21 and 27 have been amended to specify that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{20})_3$. Independent claim 26 has been amended to specify that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. These amendments are believed to be sufficient to distinguish the Applicants' claims from the references cited by the Examiner in the subject Office Action. This is based in part on the Examiner's conclusion that claims 3, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Each of these claims specify that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. Claims 1-5 and 7-27, as specified in the current listing of claims, specify that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{20})_3$ or $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. It is respectfully submitted that it would be consistent with the Examiner's finding with respect to claims 3, 22 and 23 that all of the claims in the current listing of claims are allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-20 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons indicated on page 2 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to the use of the term "norbornene-type" repeating units. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the previously inserted amendatory language "the polymer comprising only norbornene-type repeating units." This language has also been deleted from claim 27. Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to delete the previously submitted amendatory language "norbornene-type." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot as a result of the amendments to claims 1, 7 and 27. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Tachibana et al. (U.S. Patent 6,660,448 B2). Claims 16 and 19 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tachibana et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Tachibana et al. discloses a lactone structure as shown in formulae (I-1) and (I-2) in column 2. In these structures, R^2 can be hydrogen, or an acyl or alkoxycarbonyl group of 1 to 15 carbon atoms in which some or all of the hydrogen atoms may be substituted with halogen atoms. This reference does not disclose or suggest the structure now specified in the

Applicants' claims wherein T is $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{20})_3$ or $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7-10, 21 and 24-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Ravikiran et al. (U.S. 2005/0019638 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ravikiran et al. discloses sultones of the type represented by the formula in paragraph 0024. The reference does not disclose sultones wherein T is represented by the formula $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{20})_3$ or $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ as specified in the Applicants' amended claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7-10, 21 and 24-27 have been provisionally rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 5 and 6 in Ravikiran et al. The Examiner indicated that this rejection could be obviated by the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer. In response, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Terminal Disclaimer concurrently filed with this response. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kinsho et al. '961 (U.S. Patent 6,500,961 B2). Claims 16 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kinsho et al. '961. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kinsho et al. '961 discloses lactones of the type represented by Formula (I) in column 2. In the lactones disclosed is this formula, R^2 is hydrogen or an acyl or alkoxycarbonyl group of 1 to 15 carbon atoms in which some or all of the hydrogen atoms on the substituent carbon atoms may be substituted with halogen atoms. In contrast, the Applicants' claims 1, 21 and 27 specify that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{20})_3$ and claim 26 specifies that T is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. These structures are neither disclosed nor suggested by the teachings in Kinsho et al. '961. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a timely issuance of a notice of allowance for claims 1-5 and 7-27. In the alternative, entry of the amendment is requested for purposes of an appeal.

In the event any fee or additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper,

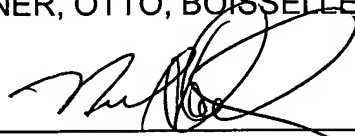
the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988. In the event an extension of time is needed to make the filing of this paper timely and no separate petition is attached, please consider this a petition for the requisite extension and charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

In the event there are issues the Examiner would like to discuss with the Applicants' attorney, he is invited to contact the undersigned by phone.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By



Neil A. DuChez, Reg. No. 26,725

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113